

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:
a menu storage unit storing characteristic menu information corresponding to applications; and
a menu development unit discriminating whether one of the applications is ~~started-being executed~~ and displaying a menu corresponding to the ~~started-discriminated~~ application on a screen using said menu information.
2. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a menu execution unit executing a processing corresponding to a menu item selected from said menu.
3. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the application for which said menu information exists is ~~started-being executed~~, the application is activated.
4. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said menu development unit displays a predetermined menu on the screen if an application which does not store said menu information is ~~started-being executed~~ or no application is ~~started-being executed~~.
5. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined menu is a launcher menu for starting the applications.
6. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if a menu item is selected from said menu, the menu is deleted from the screen.

7. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus comprises an indication unit indicating display of said menu and said menu development unit discriminates the started executing application if an indication of said indication unit is detected.

8. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said indication unit is a device consisting of a scroll-up button and a scroll-down button for changing selection of the menu item from said menu and a defined button for determining the selected menu item.

9. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said defined button is operated to thereby indicate the display of said menu.

10. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said defined button is arranged between said scroll-up button and said scroll-down button.

11. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said scroll-up button and said scroll-down button are a seesaw switch provided with a pair of switch contacts operating by depressing one of operation regions on both ends of a switch knob, and said defined button is a push button switch arranged in a hole formed at a center of said switch knob.

12. (original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said indication unit is provided in front of a keyboard.

13. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the information processing apparatus comprises:

- a cover on which a display is arranged;
- a main body on which said keyboard is arranged; and
- a coupling section coupling the cover to the main body.

14. (currently amended) A menu processing method for displaying a menu on a screen, comprising:

discriminating whether one of the applications is startedbeing executed; and
displaying a menu corresponding to the started-discriminated application based on a
discriminating result while using characteristic menu information characteristic menu information
corresponding to applications.

15. (previously presented) A menu processing method according to claim 14,
comprising executing a processing corresponding to a menu item selected from said menu.

16. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14, wherein if
the application for which said menu information exists is startedbeing executed, the application
is activated.

17. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14, wherein a
predetermined menu is displayed on the screen if an application, for which said menu
information exists, is started-being executed or no application is startedbeing executed.

18. (original) A menu processing method according to claim 17, wherein said
predetermined menu is a launcher menu for starting the applications.

19. (original) A menu processing method according to claim 14, wherein if a menu
item is selected from said menu, the menu is deleted from the screen.

20. (currently amended) A menu processing method according to claim 14,
comprising indicating display of said menu, and the started-executing application is discriminated
if an indication is detected.

21. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium recording a menu
processing program, the menu processing program allowing a computer to execute the
operations of:

discriminating whether one of the applications is startedbeing executed; and
displaying a menu corresponding to the started-discriminated application based on a
discriminating result while using said menu information characteristic menu information
corresponding to applications.

22. (original) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said menu processing program conducts a processing corresponding to a menu item selected from said menu.

23. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein if the application for which said menu information exists is startedbeing executed, said menu processing program activates the application.

24. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein if an application, for which said menu information exists, is startedbeing executed or no application is startedbeing executed, said menu processing program displays a predetermined menu on the screen.

25. (original) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 24, wherein said predetermined menu is a launcher menu for starting the applications.

26. (previously presented) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein if a menu item is selected from said menu, said menu processing program deletes the menu from the screen.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 21, wherein an indication of display of said menu is detected, and the startedexecuting application is discriminated if said indication is detected.

28. (previously presented) A menu processing method, comprising:
storing menu characteristic information corresponding to applications;
determining whether an activated control activates one of the applications; and
displaying a menu for the application if the application corresponding to the control exists where the menu is displayed responsive to the menu characteristic information corresponding to the application.

29. (new) An information processing method, comprising:
storing characteristic menu information corresponding to applications;
performing a test to determine whether one of the applications is executing; and

displaying a menu corresponding to the executing application on a screen using said menu information when the application is determined to be executing by the test.

30. (new) An information processing apparatus, comprising:
storing characteristic menu information corresponding to applications;
discriminating whether one of the applications is started and displaying a menu corresponding to the started application on a screen using said menu information; and
displaying a predetermined menu only when a menu corresponding to an application is not displayed.

31. (new) A system, comprising:
a storage storing application menus of executing applications and an application launcher menu;
a menu activation button; and
a computer and display system, when the menu activation button is activated, performing a test to determine if is an application corresponding to one of the application menus is executing and displaying the one of the application menus corresponding to the executing application when the application corresponding to the one of the application menus is executing and displaying the application launcher menu when an application corresponding to one of the application menus is not executing.